

NICE 2003/015a

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***National Institute for
Clinical Excellence***

MidCity Place
71 High Holborn
London WC1V 6NA

www.nice.org.uk

NICE Citizens Council to examine role of age in decision-making about how treatments should be used in the NHS

The Citizens Council of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE), which provides public input into the Institute's work, will hold its second meeting in Cardiff City Hall this week (8-10 May 2003).

The 30-strong Council of lay members of the public will examine 'age' and its impact on the Institute's work. Proceedings will be open to the public, and local schools and community groups have been invited to attend. The Council will consider the question: 'Are there circumstances in which the age of a person should be taken into account when NICE is making a decision about how treatments should be used in the NHS?'

Professor Sir Michael Rawlins, Chairman of NICE, said: "The Citizens Council has already made a huge contribution by enabling NICE to take the views of the general public into account when undertaking our work. Last year the Council met for the first time to consider the issue of 'clinical need', and now we are asking the Council to consider the issue of age. Age is a complex issue in healthcare, so we have asked the Council to meet twice to consider it – the first meeting takes place in May, with a follow-up meeting later this year."

He added, “ We have opened the meeting to the public, and we have invited local community groups and schools to attend, to ensure that this is an opportunity for the public as a whole to consider this important issue.”

Councillors will hear evidence from and question a variety of experts, patients and organisations active in this field. Detailed supporting questions for the meeting are being worked through with the active in-put of Councillors, and the Council is also contributing to decisions over which witnesses will be called to give evidence.

The Council will meet again in November, when it will continue to hear evidence on the issue of age. After this second meeting the Council will submit a report to the Board of NICE setting out its findings.

The second meeting of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence's Citizens Council will take place from Thursday, 8th to Saturday 10th May in the Council Chambers at City Hall, Cardiff, Cathays Park, CF10 3ND

The proceedings are open to the public. Members of the public who are interested in attending should register in advance by calling the event organisers on 0161 839 0385 or e mailing ct@visiontwentyone.co.uk

Ends

Notes to Editors

1. For more information, to interview witnesses, Council members or senior staff at NICE please contact Geoffrey Bowden or Simon Williams at Nexus Structured Communications on:
 - Telephone: 020 7439 7700 (Nexus Switchboard)
 - 020 7255 8642 (Geoffrey Bowden direct line)
 - 07958 682683 (Geoffrey Bowden mobile)
 - 020 7255 8643 (Simon Williams direct line)
 - 07989 392810 (Simon Williams mobile)
2. Citizens Council meetings are open to the media and public alike and we will be operating a full press office facility during the course of the meeting.
3. All journalists must register with the press office. Fax and telephone facilities will be available in the press office. **There are space constraints at the venue – to**

ensure your place we do need to know in advance if you are interested in attending.

4. The line-up of Council witnesses is being finalised but will be confirmed before the meeting.

About NICE

6. NICE is part of the NHS. It is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on treatments and care for those using the NHS in England and Wales. Its guidance is for healthcare professionals and patients and their carers to help them make decisions about treatment and healthcare. For further information about NICE you can visit www.nice.org.uk.

About the Citizens Council

12. NICE has established the Citizens Council to find out what the public think about key issues that inform the development of the guidance NICE issues. The thirty Council members reflect the age, social circumstances, ethnic background, regional difference and abilities of a cross-section of England and Wales.
13. The announcement by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) in August 2002 that it was seeking to recruit members of the public to sit on the Council resulted in around 4,400 applications. Vision 21, an independent organisation brought in to manage the recruitment process and run the Citizens Council meetings, selected 15 men and 15 women that met all the selection criteria. Drawn from all walks of life that reflect the make up of the population in England and Wales, their ages range from 18 to 76. The names of the thirty men and women who will make up the UK's first Citizens Council were announced on Friday 8 November 2002.
14. For full details of the Citizens Council, including details of its first report issued at the end of last year and its membership, click onto the link below.
<http://www.nice.org.uk/cat.asp?c=35528>